

State level activities coupled with the State flexibility will drastically improve the program and the assistance and services it provides to individuals with disabilities.

I am pleased with the changes that H.R. 4278 makes to the Assistive Technology Act, and I believe that they will greatly improve the lives of those affected by a disability. In crafting this legislation, we worked with our friends across the aisle, our friends in the disability community, and our State directors. I believe we have come up with a creative proposal that will give States significant flexibility while also ensuring that the focus of the program does shift in the right direction. The reforms we have crafted in this bill respond to the concerns of the critics of this program, and will place the program on solid footing for continued and future success.

I would like to thank Mr. KILDEE and his staff, for the long hours that have gone into this process so far. I would also like to thank JIM RAMSTAD and JIM LANGEVIN for their support for this important legislation. As cochairs of the Disability Caucus, they know the importance of this legislation and I am glad to have their support today. I am very pleased with this bill, and I am glad to say we have been able to come together in a bipartisan way to improve this important program. I would also like to thank our friends in the disability community for working with us so diligently throughout this process. Your support for this legislation is valued and it is important that this has been such an open and deliberative process.

I strongly support H.R. 4278, the "Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004," and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4278.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 1350, IMPROVING EDUCATION RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2003

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1350) reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California? The Chair hears none and, without objection, appoints the following conferees:

From the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BOEHNER, CASTLE, EHLERS, KELLER, WILSON of

South Carolina, GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. OWENS.

From the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for consideration of section 101 and title V of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. BARTON of Texas, BILIRAKIS, and DINGELL.

From the Committee on the Judiciary, for consideration of section 205 of the House bill, and section 101 of the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. SENSIBRENNER, SMITH of Texas, and CONYERS.

There was no objection.

EXTENDING LIABILITY INDEMNIFICATION REGIME FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Science be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5245) to extend the liability indemnification regime for the commercial space transportation industry, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 5245

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INDEMNIFICATION EXTENSION.

Section 70113(f) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "December 31, 2004." and inserting "December 31, 2009."

SEC. 2. STUDY.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall enter into an arrangement with a nonprofit entity for the conduct of an independent comprehensive study of the liability risk sharing regime in the United States for commercial space transportation under section 70113 of title 49, United States Code. To ensure that Congress has a full analysis of the liability risk sharing regime, the study shall assess methods by which the current system could be eliminated, including an estimate of the time required to implement each of the methods assessed. The study shall assess whether any alternative steps would be needed to maintain a viable and competitive United States space transportation industry if the current regime were eliminated. In conducting the assessment under this section, input from commercial space transportation insurance experts shall be sought. The study also shall examine liability risk sharing in other nations with commercial launch capability and evaluate the direct and indirect impact that ending this regime would have on the competitiveness of the United States commercial space launch industry in relation to foreign commercial launch providers and on United States assured access to space.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 5245.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2608) to reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendment, as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

TITLE I—EARTHQUAKE HAZARD REDUCTION

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Definitions.

Sec. 103. National earthquake hazards reduction program.

Sec. 104. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE II—WINDSTORM IMPACT REDUCTION

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Findings.

Sec. 203. Definitions.

Sec. 204. National windstorm impact reduction program.

Sec. 205. National advisory committee on windstorm impact reduction.

Sec. 206. Savings clause.

Sec. 207. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 208. Biennial report.

Sec. 209. Coordination.

TITLE III—COMMERCIAL SPACE TRANSPORTATION

Sec. 301. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE I—EARTHQUAKE HAZARD REDUCTION

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2004".

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

Section 4 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(8) The term 'Interagency Coordinating Committee' means the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Earthquake Hazards Reduction established under section 5(a)."

"(9) The term 'Advisory Committee' means the Advisory Committee established under section 5(a)(5)."

SEC. 103. NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS REDUCTION PROGRAM.

Section 5 of the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7704(b)) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program.

"(2) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—The activities of the Program shall be designed to—